

I am writing to object to Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election, illustrating the dangers of media consolidation. I believe that Sinclair's decision ought to signal a need for an immediate response by the FCC to prevent this misuse of the airwaves.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Frankly, unless Sinclair balances its mandatory airing of the anti-Kerry documentary with either an anti-Bush documentary like Fahrenheit 9/11 or the pro-Kerry Going Upriver, they should be threatened with a license suspension.